

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9484

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS/ ETRN, EMIN, BL, CI, PE

SUBJ: GOC - GOB PORT TALKS

REF: SANTIAGO 1383; 1338

1. PRESS OF APRIL 4 REPORTED STATEMENT OF RAUL ESPINOZA, PRESIDENT OF BOLIVIAN PORT COMMISSION, TO EFFECT THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF CHILEAN PORT COMMISSION SYSTEMATICALLY REFUSED TO DISCUSS IMPROVEMENT OF PORT FACILITIES IN ANTOFAGASTA AND ARICA TO TAKE CARE OF BOLIVIA'S EXPORTS. THIS STATEMENT IS DIRECT REPLY TO CHILE'S FOREIGN OFFICE ASSERTION BLAMING BOLIVIAN COMMISSION FOR FAILURE OF LAST MEETING. ESPINOZA SAID CHILEAN FOREIGN OFFICE STATEMENT IS BASED ON FALSE INFORMATION WHICH CHILEAN COMMISSION PROVIDED. HE ADDED BOLIVIA CANNOT MEDDLE IN MATTERS WHICH TECHNICALLY ARE EXCLUSIVELY OF CHILEAN RESPONSIBILITY, AND BOLIVIAN DELEGATION COULD NOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENT BECAUSE PROBLEMS OF IMPROVING CHILEAN PORTS TO HANDLE BOLIVIAN EXPORTS HAD NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY RESOLVED. BOLIVIAN DELEGATION, HE SAID, SUGGESTED INSTALLATION OF BELT CONVEYORS WHICH WAS TURNED DOWN BY CHILEANS. IT ALSO PROPOSED THE BUILDING OF A SIMPLE SHED MEASURING 1,500 SQUARE METERS WHICH CHILEANS TURNED DOWN. CHILE, HE ADDED, PROMISED TWO YEARS AGO TO CONSTRUCT A SHED WITHIN 100 DAYS, BUT DID NOT KEEP ITS PROMISE. INSTEAD, HE SAID, CHILEANS PROPOSED TO CARRY OUT STUDY OF AMOUNT OF EXPORT FLOW AND, THEREBY, THE TALKS ARRIVED AT A DEAD STOP. ESPINOZA, REPORTEDLY FINISHED

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PRESS INTERVIEW WITH REMARK THAT CHILEAN COMMISSION DID NOT PROPOSE ANY SOLUTION TO BOLIVIA' S COMPLAINTS TO PREVENT INCREASING PORT AND TARIFF CHARGES FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT.

2. MEANWHILE ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, BANCO MINERO, COMIBOL, AND PRIVATE MINERS ARE SCHEDULED TO REDIRECT THEIR MINERAL EXPORTS TO MATARANI, PERU.

3. COMMENT: AN ESTIMATED 20 PERCENT OF BOLIVIA' S EXPORTS BY WEIGHT GO TO CHILEAN PORTS. PREVIOUS BOLIVIAN PORT COMMISSION STATEMENTS ARE THAT BOLIVIA ANNUALLY IMPORTS THROUGH CHILEAN PORTS 280,000 METRIC TONS OF GOODS AND IS CHARGED US\$ 9.25 PER TON WHICH ANNUALLY AMOUNTS TO US\$ 2,590,000. FURTHERMORE, BOLIVIA CLAIMS MOUNTING LOSSES AND GREATER INSURANCE COSTS BECAUSE OF LACK OF ADEQUATE CHILEAN PORT FACILITIES.
SIRACUSA

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